

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

The regular meeting for the Board of Selectmen convened at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room in the Town Office Building at 110 Main Street. In attendance were Dr. Richard M. Smith and Edward S. Harrison. John R. Morrell was absent. Also present were Town Administrator Evan Brassard and the media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for September 8, 2015 – open and executive sessions and August 28, 2015 – executive session. Dr. Smith seconded and it was so VOTED.

**Nexamp Solar Proposal:**

Vice President of Business Development at Nexamp, Chris Clark, approached the Board of Selectmen to provide a general overview of the project and to request the placement of an article on the Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Clark explained Nexamp is a seven year old Massachusetts based Veteran founded solar company. They develop, build and operate solar projects. They have expelled just over 200 solar projects and just about 50 megawatts.

Mr. Clark explained for the past nine months they have been developing a 2.6 megawatt solar array off of East Hill Road in Monson. They received their approval from the Monson Planning Board and Monson Conservation Commission last week. Mr. Clark said he has been speaking with Mr. Brassard over the summer about entering into a tax agreement for the project and a couple of proposals have been exchanged.

Mr. Brassard said there are still a few things to clean up in the proposal, and Town Counsel has given a couple of recommendations. Mr. Brassard added the dollar amounts discussed were fairly good, right around the \$12,500 per megawatt amount per year with a 1% escalation, which is pretty standard. This is comparable to what the Town received in the Cornerstone PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreement. This totals about \$750,000 of income for the town over twenty years.

The property, which is approximately eleven or twelve acres on private property, is currently in Chapter 61A. When it's taken out of 61A, the town will receive five years of roll back taxes.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to place an article on the warrant for the next Special Town Meeting for the Nexamp solar proposal as negotiated by Mr. Brassard and Mr. Clark of Nexamp. Dr. Smith seconded and it was so VOTED.

**Setting of Special Town Meeting Date:**

Mr. Harrison made a motion to set the date of the Special Town Meeting for November 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Smith seconded and it was so VOTED.

**Pumpkin Festival Request for Road Closure:**

Joan Sisley approached the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the First Church of Monson.

Dr. Smith noted he had a copy of an email from Police Chief Kozloski stating the requested road closure was okay with him.

Ms. Sisley said her husband will meet with Highway Surveyor John Morrell to make sure the closure is done properly.

Ms. Sisley noted this is the biggest fund raiser put on by the First Church, and this is the 8<sup>th</sup> year it has been held. This year's Pumpkin Festival will be held on October 3, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the church on High Street. They will have a craft fair, music and entertainment all day, games, arts and crafts, face painting and food. They will have contests for the best scarecrow, best chili, best apple pie, best pumpkin pie and a blueberry pie eating contest. They will sell pumpkins and have pumpkin carving contests for the scariest and funniest pumpkins. Sarah the Fiddler will be there at 2:30 p.m.

Parking and admission are free and wrist bands can be purchased for the games, face painting, etc.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to close High Street on October 3, 2015 from Ely Road to Fountain Street between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Dr. Smith seconded and it was so VOTED.

**Monson Landfill Solar Project Proposal:**

This item was tabled.

**Salary and Classification Study Implementation:**

Mr. Brassard reiterated the procedure Human Resource Services went through to develop the salary and classification study for Monson, and the updating of the job descriptions for every employee working for the town. Mr. Brassard explained at the end of this process, HRS came to a Selectmen's meeting and presented all the data. The Board, after reviewing all that data, looked at the best way to implement the study and what that will cost, and reach a consensus of what the Board would like to see happen as the next steps and how to proceed from here.

Dr. Smith said he feels this provides equity amongst the employees so everyone is paid comparably.

Mr. Harrison noted the classification study will have to be done again in seven to ten years to keep everything in balance, depending on how the market changes.

Dr. Smith felt it should be implemented January 1, 2016 instead of retroactively back to July 1, 2015 to save some money. By implementing the salary increases on January 1<sup>st</sup> it will cost \$58,000 for the first year. The other option was to not implement this plan until 2017; and the January 1<sup>st</sup> date falls in between that.

Mr. Harrison said he is in favor of supporting the implementation of the study as presented. It was noted the union employees will need to vote to accept this or come up with a compromise. This will also have to go onto the town warrant for presentation at the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Brassard and Ms. Mahar will draft an article for the warrant.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept and adopt the salary and classification plan for the non-union employees with an implementation date of January 1, 2016. Implementation for the union employees will be contingent upon union negotiations. Dr. Smith seconded and it was so VOTED.

**Appointment of Interim Finance Director:**

Mr. Harrison made a motion to appoint Evan Brassard as the Interim Finance Director effective immediately until such time someone else is hired to fill the position. Dr. Smith seconded and it was so VOTED.

Correspondence was read and completed.

**In Other Business to Come Before the Board:**

- Mr. Brassard noted the Town received a check in the amount of \$2,000 from Republic Services (the town's trash carrier) to purchase a defibrillator for this building.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the very generous donation of \$2,000 from Republic Services and to authorize the expenditure of the \$2,000 for the purchase of a defibrillator for the Town Office Building. Dr. Smith seconded and it was so VOTED.

- Mr. Brassard said Bulky Day will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the new location at the Hillside Building instead of the previously used Quarry Hill Community School site. Traffic will be looped around in the parking lot at Granite Valley Middle School.
- Mr. Brassard said the Highway Department has been working with Mr. Brassard and the School Department, removing a condemned wooden playground structure with their back hoe and loader. The structure was splintering and was placed in a dumpster. A new more modern standard non-splintering play structure that will not break down over time will be built in its place either this fall or in the spring.

At 7:43 p.m., Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn from open session to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Sec. 21 (2) and

collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Sec. 21 (3), not to return to open session.  
Dr. Smith seconded and it was so VOTED.

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Edward S. Harrison, Clerk